

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 318
By West

A RESOLUTION To honor St. Phillip's Episcopal Church on the
occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those esteemed religious institutions and their congregations who through their unwavering commitment to service and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The good people of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church are one such exemplary congregation who are richly deserving of this body's praise; and

WHEREAS, Founded Sunday, June 3, 1951, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this summer; and

WHEREAS, Before the first Sunday meeting of the St. Philip's Episcopal Church, members met on the lawn of then Governor Robert's home to enjoy a picnic lunch; early members recall that the first Sunday was very hot, but spirits were high; well-wishers from St. Ann's in East Nashville, St. John's in Old Hickory, and other area churches also attended the picnic; and

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WHEREAS, When conversation at the picnic turned to naming the parish, one of the ladies present recalled that after our Lord called St. Phillip, he first went and found his friend, Nathaniel; St. Philip shared with him the “Good News” and as stated in *Donnelson, Tennessee: Its History and Landmarks*, the congregation “realized at once that this was just the spirit the new parish needed to achieve”; and

WHEREAS, After lunch, the new congregation went to the Masonic Hall on Lebanon Road, where the late Reverend Theodore N. Barth, then Bishop Coadjutor of Tennessee, led the fledgling congregation in evening prayer; in his sermon he preached, “I do not think this mission will succeed. I know it will”; twenty people signed the original petition to form St. Philip’s Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, The deliberate efforts and hard work of the initial members, M.D. C. Stockell, Dorothy S. Stockell, Kent Stockell, M.D.C. Stockell, Jr., John Booth, Edith Booth, H.R. Smith, Jr., Robert Arnott, Francis C. Card, Katherine K. Card, Elsy L. Cheshire, John M. Devoe, T.H. Freeman III, Virginia L. Freeman, E.F. Jones, Jane Hill Lyon, W.H. Ward, Philena Ward, A.J. Bottiger, Mary Bottiger, Ralph Wheatley, and Orleania Wheatley laid the foundation for the now thriving St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, By just the end of its first year this outstanding church had grown to include the following members, Mr. and Mrs. James White, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Payne, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Owen, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Langford, Mrs. Dorothy Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. F.H. Gates, Mrs. John Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Bay Bohner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Benagh, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Vernal; and

WHEREAS, The St. Philip’s Episcopal Church has significantly contributed to the social, cultural, and spiritual vitality of Nashville, honorably adhering to their mission statement of “helping one another feel the love of God by hearing, seeing, participating, in, living and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ”; and

WHEREAS, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, including Reverend Peter J. Whalen and faithful congregation have continued their work of joyous and committed service to God and their community, building on the record of the past fifty years and looking to the future with hope and confidence, always growing in spirit, stewardship, and ministry; and

WHEREAS, On May 12, 2001, the St. Phillip's Episcopal Church will begin its joyous celebrations of fifty years of service, and it is only fitting that we join in this momentous occasion and honor their legacy of spreading "The Good News"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the congregation and rector, Reverend Peter J. Whalen, of the St. Philip's Episcopal Church for their many years of service to God, their community, and to this State, and extend to them our best wishes as they embark on their fiftieth year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.